



CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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BART LOMBARD, PRESIDENT
JOHN STIMLEY, VICE PRESIDENT
LOUISE MOCK, SECRETARY
JOHN SKIERKOWSKI, COMMISSIONER
KEITH HARRIS, COMMISSIONER

Minutes of the July 12, 2010, Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting.

President Bart Lombard called the meeting to order. A quorum was noted as present with Commissioners Bart Lombard, Keith Harris, John Stimley, John Skierkowski, and Louise Mock in attendance. Others present included Attorney Pam Krause, Councilwoman Pat Boy, Chief Dave Lamb, Deputy Chief Randy Novak, Fire Marshall Kyle Kazmierczak, Mayor Oberlie, Fire Fighters Jeff Bruder, Ryan Smith and Recording Secretary, Gale Neulieb.

On a motion by Keith Harris, second by Louise Mock the minutes of the June 7, 2010 meeting were approved as amended. **Motion 5-0.**

Commissioner Mock read the following Memo received from the City Controller's Office on July 8, 2010:

On Wednesday, July 7, 2010 Mayor Oberlie signed into law an ordinance that gives the council the sole authority to approve claims and transfers in the Boyd Development Fund (1417) and the Riverboat Fund (9000). We will need to prepare a separate docket for any and all claims paid through these two funds. must be submitted to the Controller's Office for entry and payment. If the invoice is associated with a purchase order, please write the purchase order number in the upper left hand corner of the invoice.

Your cooperation with this change is greatly appreciated and will allow for a smooth transition in our established process.

President Lombard advised that this would not have any effect on the Fire Merit Commission.

Commissioner Harris reported on the Council's Public Health and Safety Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 that was called to review the proposed ordinance amending Municipal Code Chapter 54, Article II, Division 3, Fire Merit System.

Discussion ensued among President Lombard, Keith Harris, and Deputy Chief Randy Novak.

Attorney Krause had nothing to report.

Attorney Krause advised the Commission regarding the statistics of the last testing requested by the NAACP.

Commissioner Harris advised that he emailed the following statistics to Joan Chumley, NAACP:

Joan:

Per our conversation this morning, below is the data from our recent written test MC Fire Department applicants. If you have any questions, please let me know.

- 104 sat for test
- Of those sitting 16 were minorities broken down as follows: 13 African Americans, 2 woman, 1 American Indian.
- 77 of the 104 passed the test. 68 non-minority, 6 African American, 2 women, 1 American Indian.
- 27 failed the test. 20 non-minority and 7 African Americans.

Keith Harris

John Skierkowski made a motion to take the disciplinary review action dated June 7, 2010 off being tabled, second by Louise Mock. **Motion 5 -0**

A motion by John Stimley and second by Commissioner Mock the disciplinary action taken by the Chief's office dated June 7, 2010 was approved. **5 - 0**

Commissioner Skierkowski addressed the Commission regarding when a disciplinary action should be reviewed and be brought before the Commission for their approval.

Discussion ensued among President Lombard, Commissioner Skierkowski and Stimley, and Chief Lamb.

Chief Lamb introduced Probationary Firefighter Andrew Belue who graduated from the Academy June 25, 2010. Chief Lamb stated that Jason Lee and Brandon White also graduated from the Academy on June 25, 2010 but were unable to attend the meeting.

President Lombard stated that he attended their graduation on June 25, 2010 held at the Indiana War Memorial.

Chief Lamb addressed the Commission with the following presentation:

Quote – "I have no ambition in this world but one, and this is to be a fireman.

The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling.

Our proudest moment is to save lives". – **Edward F. Croker**

In the fire service we use the words Merit, honor, and Integrity to help describe our profession. These two individuals being recognized tonight displayed all the qualities while providing life saving skills to an unknown person. On April 23rd, 2010, Firefighter Jeff Bruder and Firefighter Ryan Smith rendered emergency care without hesitation and because of their efforts they were able to sustain life and deliver the person alive to an advanced care provider. At this time we would like to read the following recommendation: "Mrs. Koss's Letter"

Tonight we are proud to award Firefighter Jeff Bruder and Firefighter Ryan Smith with the Michigan City Fire Department Lifesaving Award. This award is given to a firefighter that has been involved in a lifesaving effort at an emergency scene or who has provided extraordinary assistance in a lifesaving effort. We are proud of these individuals and commend them for all of their efforts.

Chief Lamb read the following letter received from Sandra Koss, 6387 W. Shiva Dr.:

Dear Chief Lamb:

On April 23, 2010, I was at the American Legion Club in Chesterton, Indiana, with my husband, a Michigan City Fire Department Station Captain and Firefighter. We were at the Club with Ryan Smith (MCFD) and his fiancé, Kelley, and Jeffrey Bruder (MCFD) and his wife Rhea.

A woman who had been sitting with friends at the bar across the room from our table was walking into the ladies room near our table. As she approached the doorway, she hit the edge of the wall, which made a loud noise and caught my Attention. She then instantly collapsed to the floor and her head hit the floor loudly. I ran to her side noticed she wasn't breathing and called Ryan and Jeffrey who immediately ran over (they were facing away from the rest room doorway) to tend to the woman.

They quickly assessed her and began doing what they are trained to do: They saved this woman's life.

She was blue and she wasn't breathing but Ryan and Jeff resuscitated her and completed all of their normal routines, including keeping her flat on her back, calmly speaking to her to keep her still and quiet and of course ensured the staff called 911. They waited with her, holding her hand and speaking with her about how she been feeling prior to her collapse, asking if she had any medial issues lately, etc., until the police, paramedics and Chesterton Fire Department arrived to take over. They relayed their involvement and information the woman had shared with them to the incoming team and stepped aside.

Most people will never get to see a life saved, but on April 23rd I did –by two professional highly skilled firefighters. Although my husband tells me it is part of his job as a firefighter and he's told me just how Ryan and Jeffrey are at their jobs as EMTs and firefighters, seeing those men in action was completely inspiring and I know there is a woman alive today because of Ryan Smith and Jeffrey Bruder.

This woman would have died April 23rd if Ryan and Jeffrey had not been there, yet they walked away like it was something they do every single day. The level of professionalism is amazing to me. But then I've never save a life – only watched in awe as they did.

Please take an opportunity to appropriately recognize Ryan and Jeffrey for their selfless act and for being the best of the best.

Sincerely,
Sandra Koss

Chief Lamb stated the City of Michigan City and the Michigan City Fire Department presented a Letter of Commendation/Lifesaving Award to Firefighters Jeff Bruder and Ryan Smith.

Firefighters Jeff Bruder and Ryan Smith addressed the Commission regarding the incident that happened on April 23, 2010 at the American Legion in Chesterton, thanking Mrs. Koss for writing the letter to Chief Lamb.

Chief Lamb advised that their Tower Training Center is ready for the applicants to do their physical agility tests on August 7 & 8, 2010.

Chief Lamb reminded the Commission that after the meeting they were going to tour the new facility.

Commission Skierkowski presented to the Commission a proposed revision of the Firefighters application and hiring procedure packet that would be given to applicants for them to review.

There was a discussion regarding the proposed Firefighter application and hiring procedure packet among President Lombard, Attorney Krause, Chief Lamb, and Commissioners Skierkowski and Harris.

Councilwoman Boy addressed the Commission advising them that at the last Public Health and Safety Committee meeting they **TABLED** the proposed Fire Merit ordinance until the City Attorney reviews it.

President Lombard asked Gale Neulieb, Recording Secretary to send a copy of the Indiana Fire Merit State Statute to each Commissioner and Attorney Krause.

Chief Novak asked the Commission to add the two (2) Firefighters that received Lifesaving Awards to the Fire Merit Plaque at the Training Center. Commissioner Harris made a motion to add Firefighters Jeff Bruder and Ryan Smith's name to the Fire Merit Plaque for receiving their Lifesaving Awards, second by Commissioner Harris and approved. **5 - 0**

There were no comments from the Commission.

President Lombard asked if there were any more comments or questions and hearing none, a motion by Commissioner Harris, second by Commissioner Skierkowski meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.